

## CPAC Meeting Notes March 10, 2022

Present: Rosalie Anders, Tom Chase, Peter Crawley, Trisha Montalbo, Steven Nutter, Paula Phipps, Jerrad Pierce, Julie Wormser, Susanne Rasmussen, Seth Federspiel

Susanne Rasmussen, Director's Report:

- BEUDO amendments being discussed and debated in Council Committees. Property owners also participating, including Harvard & MIT. Will be several months before Ordinance Committee can take another vote, due to scheduling.
- NZAP also being discussed and Council requested faster implementation.
- ARPA funds may be available for sustainability initiatives, such as energy efficiency measures – but needs COVID nexus to qualify.
- New Transportation group led by Councilor Azeem to explore fare-free transit routes and/or means testing for fare setting.
- Article in today's Globe: MBTA moving to transition bus fleet to battery busses over time. Battery electric busses coming. Due to road construction, Cambridge will have diesel busses for 2 years b/c overhead electric infrastructure coming down and electric busses not ready for 2 years. Need to update the Cambridge garage to accommodate electric busses (equipped with auxiliary diesel fuel heaters for winter use).
- CPAC letters have been considered by Councilors for both BEUDO and NZAP.
- CPAC is being considered as participant at Council meetings.
- David Rabkin asks re: State Straw Net Zero Stretch-Code and opportunity for public comment. City CDD and Council are sending comment letters advocating for stronger requirements to align with Net Zero roadmap, such as "Net Zero code should not allow on-site fossil fuel combustion."

Minutes revision for February meeting notes: Jarred notes that page 2, bullet 2 should change to "...City is interested in adopting the specialized opt-in code."

Conversation about role of CPAC and review of Jam-board comments from last month's CPAC meeting. See additional post-it notes on Jam-board (**appended**)

Group discussion of how to reinvigorate CPAC, stimulated via 2 questions:

1. What's in the way?
2. What should we be doing?

See Jam-board post-it notes for comments.

Chat comments:

I think the best way for people to get involved is canvassing. Perhaps knocking on doors and if no one answers leave a blurb with a website and/or phone number about what CPAC is and

what CPAC is doing. Consider reaching out to CHA and asking to partner with developments to send flyers in multi languages for outreach to disadvantaged communities. You can even reach out to local churches/community centers to spread the word. More people would be interested if they knew the work you all do and how it effects them.

If you want to reach out to youths, reach out to the youth centers. There's five/six centers that are always looking for ways to participate in Cambridge centered activities.

CDD usually hires students through the Mayors Summer Youth Employment Program to assist in our climate engagement activities. Would be great to talk about what would be priority canvassing and other actions they could engage in.

#### Group Discussion:

Expand the population of people at the table in CPAC and attending meetings from public. Invite representatives from other City groups, like Mothers Out Front, climate groups, as well as other City departments, like Public Health, DPW, etc. And also

Somerville climate committee meetings often have many guests, including guest presenters.

What time and contribution commitments should be expected of CPAC members?

If have defined role and goals it's easier to stay interested as member versus boiling the ocean.

Homework for Committee: circulate anonymous Google doc and ask each member to answer the questions: (make answers "actionable")

Why are we here on CPAC? And what do we as CPAC want to help the City accomplish? (David will re-state these questions.)

#### Member event sharing:

Biodiversity for a Livable Planet hosting conference on March 19 on Water.

Paula will send link to this event and two others.

## Appendix: Jamboard Notes

# CPAC Successes

One of CPAC's big successes was making the case successfully for incorporating vulnerability and resilience into the City's climate planning agenda.

We have been valuable at times by bringing expertise and ideas, perspective, and high-trust feedback to staff, particularly when we've avoided getting caught in the weeds.

We have engaged with various City department heads and staff, creating an opportunity for them to focus and articulate their thinking about climate and their departments' roles, and perhaps add to it through discussion with CPAC.

CPAC plays a monitoring role which (e.g., for the NZAP and for the Climate Action Plan as a whole via its annual letters) and its work can serve as useful documentation and institutional memory, too (e.g., its annual letters and documents such as statements of goals and plans). Reports to CPAC can be useful references about the status of programs, actions, work in other cities, etc.

On controversial issues, in particular, CPAC can be supportive of staff and serve as a spokesperson by speaking or writing to the Council or City Manager (we may have lobbied the Commonwealth by letter once or twice).

What's missing? What to change?

**When detailed recommendations were made: Around school curriculum, for example. There were others, too. The goals and objectives were good, white papers, plastic bag ban. There was detailed work to ID key topics and develop detailed**

**FYI: Next Generation Science Standards have been adopted in MA, and they cover climate change**

**One way CPAC helps staff: more detail is needed that what staff is producing—identifying new areas of work**

**Goal setting: Balancing aspirational vs. feasible.**

# Engage With Community

What's missing? What to change?

Include the broader community on CPAC: Reps from groups that are climate "expert" or advocates... AND others with different expertise and perspectives (housing advocacy, environmental justice, local community). Consider the skills needed given CPAC's developing role, goals, and tasks.

CPAC members participating the community to listen, learn and share, then bring what they learn back. Encourage more formal engagement with CPAC participating in groups or communities' meetings and inviting their representatives to participate and/or present in CPAC meetings. Explore the range of communities CPAC might draw upon and try to reach. Creating two-way meaningful engagement in which the community experiences their opinions mattering and affecting outcomes will take effort.

Feeling that CPAC's role has been narrowed and it has been somewhat marginalized. Although CPAC's role has been focused on working with ETP and advising the City Manager, its charter called for it to advise the City as a whole. CPAC's responsibilities and relationships should re-evaluated, perhaps to interact also with the city council and boards engaged with climate issues.

CPAC help lobby the state, utilities, or other entities on climate issues. CPAC can help communicate with others about positive results and how we achieved them, helping us lead by example.

**Might make sense for CPAC to come to planning board meeting to share climate goals, discuss how they affect the built environment. Education for planning board to help them align.**

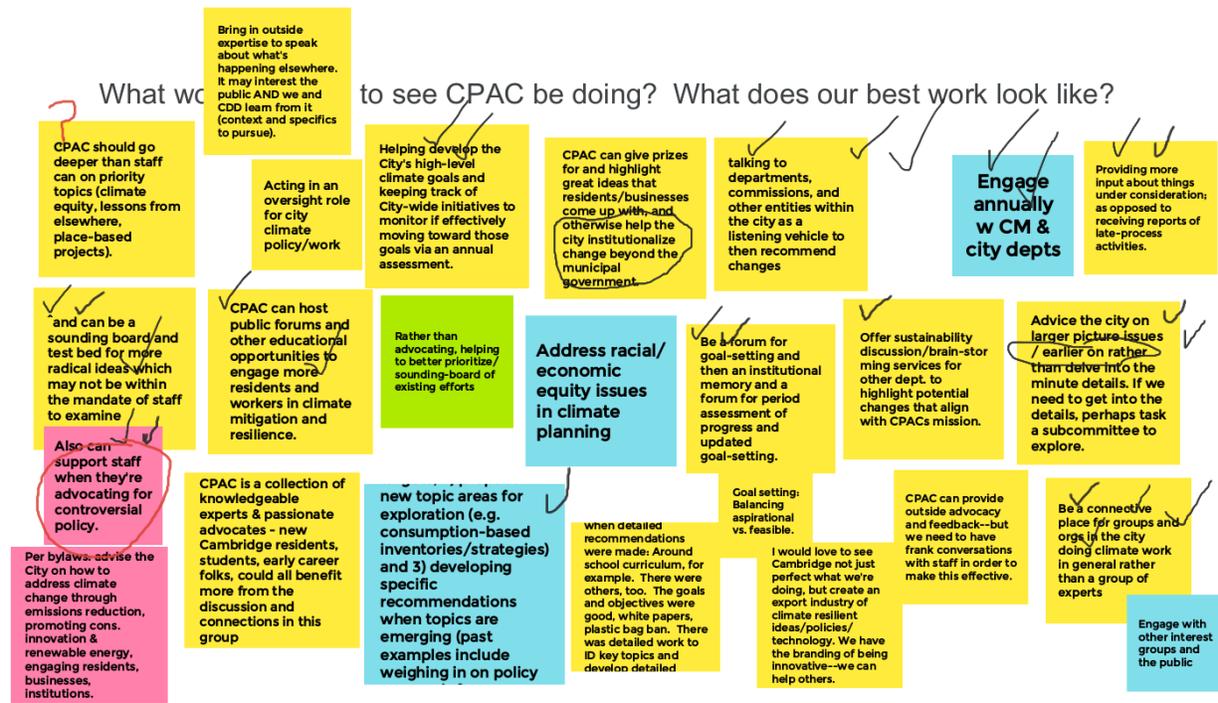
# General Reflections

What's missing? What to change?

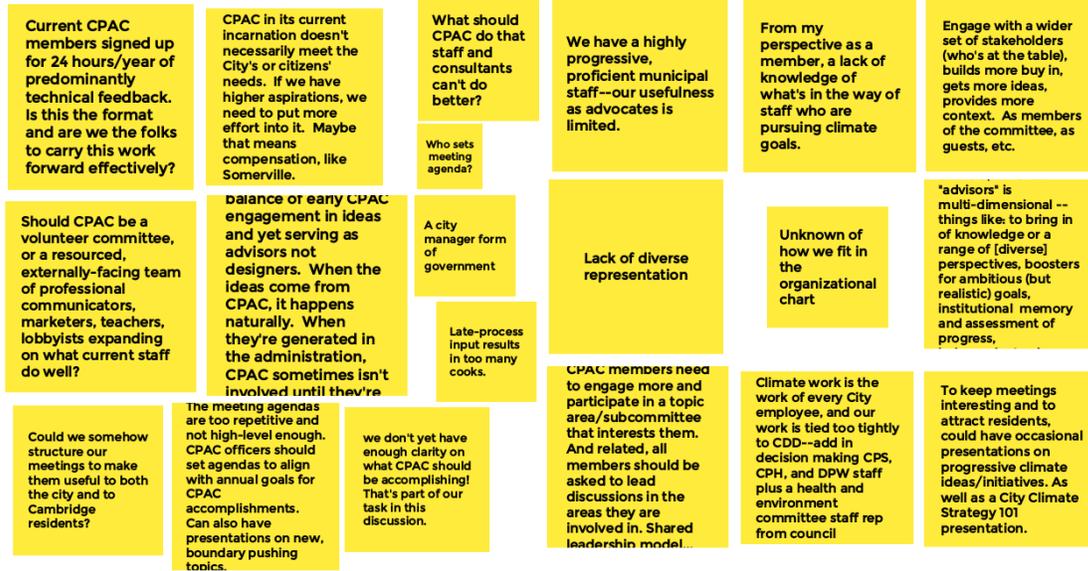
- Broaden scope beyond advising the CM
- Helping think about what's might be next – bigger thematic shifts
- How to leverage beyond our climate-focused knowledge, expertise and networks?
- Bring in members embedded differently in the community, not just expert technically.
- Engage with people who might not serve on the committee or participate in its meetings.
- Frame climate issues as larger than just the climate: public health, housing, and pursuing equity in the face of climate change are all part of resilience.
- What do others outside of CPAC's membership think about CPAC's future purpose and role? So far, we have little input from CDD staff and none from other departments, the CM, the council, or the public.
- More sharing of what Cambridge is doing and has done with people from other cities in an effort to inspire and help them.
- CPAC could organize based on interests and allow/encourage/task its members with become a "voice" to the outside world.
- We haven't engaged, or engaged with, youth – the people whose lives, health, careers, etc. will be most affected by the programs and policies the City creates, the progress it makes (or doesn't), and its impact beyond our city limits.

**On youth: Having some kind of youth representation on CPAC. NOT just outreach, but inclusion and participation.**

**We're very CDD oriented. We're not resilience oriented or talking about public works (what materials they're using).**



## What's currently in the way of CPAC doing its best work?



## Key ideas on what's next for CPAC

